

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A water-based[[,]] ~~substrate treatment~~ composition comprising:

(A) at least one chitosan ~~selected from chitosan and a~~ or chitosan derivative, and

(B) a metal compound comprising at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, Mo, W, Se, Ce, Fe, Cu, Zn, V and trivalent Cr.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The water-based,~~substrate treatment~~ composition according to claim 1, which is ~~useful for~~ formulated for application to a metal material.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The water-based,~~substrate treatment~~ composition according to claim 1, wherein said chitosan derivative is at least one of chitosan, carboxymethylchitosan, a cationized chitosan, a hydroxyalkylchitosan, [[and/]]or a salt thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The water-based,~~substrate treatment~~ composition according to claim [[3]] 1, ~~wherein said chitosan derivative is~~ which comprises glycerylated chitosan [[and/]]or a salt thereof, or both.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The water-based,~~substrate treatment~~ composition according to claim 1, wherein said metal compound (B) comprises ~~is a metal compound comprising~~ trivalent Cr, Ti, Zr, V, Mo or Ce.

Response to Official Action of October 4, 2005

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The water-based, substrate-treatment~~
composition according to claim 1, further comprising:

(C) an organic compound comprising at least one carboxyl group in a molecule thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method comprising ~~substrate-treatment method,~~
~~which comprises:~~

coating a material, which is to be treated, at a surface thereof with ~~[[a]] the water-~~
~~based, substrate-treatment~~ composition according to of claim 1,

optionally rinsing ~~said the~~ surface of ~~the said~~ material with water subsequent to said
coating,

and

heating and drying said material in a temperature range of from 80°C to 300°C.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The substrate-treatment~~ method according to
claim 7, wherein said material to be treated is a metal ~~material such as aluminum,~~
~~magnesium, copper, iron, zinc, nickel, or an alloy thereof.~~

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The substrate-treatment~~ method according to
claim 7,

wherein a dry coat weight of said chitosan (A) to said surface of said treated material
is in a range of from 1 to 500 mg/m² calculated as chitosan, and

a dry coat weight of said metal compound (B) to said surface of said treated material
is in a range of from 1 to 500 mg/m² calculated as said metal.

Response to Official Action of October 4, 2005

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A metal material treated by the ~~a substrate treatment~~ method according to claim 7.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The metal material according to claim 10, which is ~~wherein said metal material~~ is aluminum, magnesium, copper, iron, zinc, nickel, or an alloy thereof.

Claim 12 (New): The method of claim 7, wherein said material is aluminum, magnesium, copper, iron, zinc, nickel, or an alloy thereof.